



**ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL  
GRADUATION/DROPOUT PREVENTION TASKFORCE**

**July 9, 2012 @ 3:00 p.m.**

**Executive Tower**

**1700 W. Washington**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Phoenix, AZ 85007**

**Meeting Notes**

**Members Present:** Chair Merl Waschler, Diane McCarthy, Pearl Esau, Darcy Renfro, Dr. Amy Schlessman, Rusty Bowers, Mark Dobbins, Cathleen Barton, and Carolyn Warner.

**Members Not Present:** Rhian Allvin, Dr. Jim Zaharis, Dr. Kent Scribner, and Amanda McAdams

**Staff Present:** Rebecca Gau, Debra Raeder-Gay, Dale Frost, Kerry McConnell, Kelsey Bullington

**Call to Order, Welcome, & Introductions**

Chair Merl Waschler called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m., provided welcoming remarks and introduce the purpose of this meeting, which was to begin building recommendations for the AZ Ready Education Council.

**Review & Discussion: Guiding Principles and Next Steps**

Rebecca Gau reviewed the “decision rules” used in developing the “straw-man” draft recommendations, and introduced the Must Read Report list requested at the previous meeting. Task force members discussed updates and additions to make to the Must Read document. The Task force asked Staff to add definitions within the frame work to add to the Guiding Principles portion of the recommendations. Staff advised the Task force that Next Step 1 is currently being researched and an update should be available at the next Task force meeting.

**Review & Discussion: Taskforce Recommendations**

At the June 19, 2012 meeting, the Taskforce directed staff to update recommendations:

- Recommendation to re-formulate the graduation rate was removed and follow-up research proposed

- Recommendation to create a safety net for high school students was revised and additional information added
- Recommendation to transform CTE was re-phrased (rigorous, relevant, and results-driven changed to college & career-ready)
- Recommendation to implement more intensive kindergarten reading programs was revised with input from Valley of the Sun United Way

During review member Carolyn Warner introduced the Arizona CTE State Data Snapshot which offers information on CTE concentrators' success on AIMS tests and graduation rate as compared to non-CTE students. After further discussion of the Snapshot, the Task force asked Staff for further analysis of the CTE concentrators.

### **Call to the Public**

There were no requests from the public to address the Taskforce.

### **Adjourn**

Chair Waschler adjourned the meeting at 5:06 pm.